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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FLEISCHMANN).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 14, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CHARLES J. FLEISCHMANN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

HONORING THE BOY SCOUTS ON 107 YEARS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 107th birthday of an organization near and dear to my heart: the Boy Scouts of America.

On May 17, 1977, I became an Eagle Scout myself as a member of Boy Scout Troop 52, Walker Township, Pennsylvania. Over the years, I have proudly held various leadership roles

with Boy Scout troops in Pennsylvania, including two separate stints as scoutmaster of Troop 353 in Howard.

One of my greatest honors was to witness 29 young men achieve the rank of Eagle Scout during my time as scoutmaster. The Boy Scouts of America is the largest Scouting organization in the United States, one of the largest youth organizations in the world. It boasts more than 2.4 million youth participants and more than 1 million adult volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, at its core, Scouting encourages that we leave this world a little bit better than how we found it. This value-based youth development organization provides programs for young people that build character, trains them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and develops personal fitness, personal self-reliance.

The Boy Scouts of America has helped build future leaders by combining educational activities and lifelong values with fun. The Boy Scouts of America believes—and, through over a century of experience, knows—that helping youth is a key to building a more conscientious, responsible, and productive society.

Scouting focuses on moral character development, citizenship training, and development of physical, mental, and emotional fitness. Scouting promotes serving others every day in ways big and small. These values are something all of us can respect and admire. Family involvement is an essential part of the program, and parents are encouraged to play an active role in making the most of the short time they have to impact the lives of their children.

Scouting is designed to be experienced outdoors. Hiking, camping, mountain biking, skateboarding, BMX, mountain climbing, kayaking, white-water rafting—these are just some of a Scout's outdoor experiences.

The Scouting program is delivered through local civic, faith-based, and

educational institutions called charter organizations, which operate Scouting units to deliver the programs to their youth members as well as the community at large. These organizations are dedicated to helping youth learn and grow, and I have enthusiastically been involved in Scouting for decades.

Boy Scouts offer more than 130 merit badges, from archery and art to welding and wilderness survival. Scouting is the ultimate form of learning by doing. Boy Scouts explore their interests and improve their skills while working towards Scouting's highest rank: Eagle. By first imaging, planning, then doing their own service projects, Boy Scouts learn the value of hard work and experience the thrill of seeing it pay off. Add in outdoor adventures, hiking, and camping, and Scouting gives boys all the experiences they need to become fine men.

The Venturing program, which is a co-ed division of the Boy Scouts, is geared towards men and women, ages 14 to 20. Venturing's motto "Lead the Adventure" is truly geared towards the pursuit of adventure: exploring new places with friends and accomplishing challenges together. There are currently 158,000 Venturers and 58,000 adult volunteers with the Venturing program in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot be more proud of this organization and the way it helps shape young lives. Happy birthday, Boy Scouts of America. Thank you for the wisdom that you have imparted in millions of Americans.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL COURT REPORTING AND CAPTIONING WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Court Reporting and Captioning Week and in

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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